



# OZARK REGION

## MISSOURI CAREER GRADES

### SEPTEMBER 2022

#### Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations

Projected to have the most  
annual total job openings

**over 5,100**

#### Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations

Most grade A and B  
annual openings

**over 4,600**

#### Legal Occupations

Grade A and B Jobs

Concentration

**100%**

Career Grades are a tool to help make comparisons between occupations. Each occupation is assigned a letter grade from A+ to F based on outlook over the next decade. **Grades are based on a combination of projected total job openings, projected percent growth, and average wages.** Occupations with a grade of A or A+ have above average results in at least two of the three variables, while occupations with a grade of B or B+ have above average results in at least one of the three variables.

The Ozark region is projected to have over 30,000 annual job openings through 2030. The vast majority (98%) of these openings are in A, B, and C grade occupations. In general, higher graded occupations earn more and have higher growth rates. Grade A occupations earn an average wage that is 32 percent higher than the average wage for all occupations, and are projected to grow almost twice as fast as the average growth rate.

#### *Annual Job Openings and Wages by Career Grades*

##### **Grade A**

**4,112 Job Openings**  
**\$57,766 Average Wage**

##### **Grade B**

**17,003 Job Openings**  
**\$43,856 Average Wage**

##### **Grade C**

**8,286 Job Openings**  
**\$38,254 Average Wage**

#### *Top Outlook Occupation Groups*

Major Occupation Group	Total Openings	A & B Openings	A & B Concentration
Food Preparation & Serving Related	<b>5,139</b>	<b>4,603</b>	<b>90%</b>
Transportation & Material Moving	<b>3,573</b>	<b>3,341</b>	<b>94%</b>
Sales & Related	<b>3,914</b>	<b>2,417</b>	<b>62%</b>
Healthcare Support	<b>1,655</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>79%</b>
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	<b>1,316</b>	<b>1,233</b>	<b>94%</b>
Office & Administrative Support	<b>3,765</b>	<b>1,218</b>	<b>32%</b>
Management	<b>1,060</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>95%</b>
Business & Financial Operations	<b>1,101</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>89%</b>
Construction & Extraction	<b>1,050</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>68%</b>
Personal Care & Service	<b>967</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>71%</b>
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	<b>1,184</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>55%</b>
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	<b>1,031</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>61%</b>
Production	<b>1,223</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>37%</b>
Protective Service	<b>538</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>76%</b>
Computer & Mathematical	<b>448</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>85%</b>

# Ozark Top Grade Jobs

**Now** Typically requires short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2020-2030 Growth Rate	Average Wages
B	Fast Food & Counter Workers 🔥	1,838	17.4%	\$22,793
B	Retail Salespersons 🔥	1,254	8.8%	\$30,956
B+	Waiters & Waitresses 🔥	1,193	23.2%	\$22,877
B+	Stockers & Order Fillers 🔥	966	21.6%	\$28,794
B	Customer Service Representatives 🔥	804	8.0%	\$32,783
B	Home Health & Personal Care Aides 🔥	688	17.5%	\$25,013
B+	Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand 🔥	533	19.2%	\$31,795
B	Janitors & Cleaners, Except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners 🔥	514	11.0%	\$27,407
B	Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners 🔥	398	14.2%	\$24,274
B+	Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers	321	15.9%	\$28,598

**Next** Typically requires non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate-to long-term training

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2020-2030 Growth Rate	Average Wages
A	Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers 🔥	914	15.6%	\$48,577
A	Cooks, Restaurant	725	52.0%	\$27,386
B	Nursing Assistants 🔥	540	5.7%	\$29,855
A	First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation & Serving Workers	307	24.6%	\$32,755
B	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General 🔥	305	14.2%	\$36,149
B	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers 🔥	286	0.4%	\$47,243
A	Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing 🔥	235	12.5%	\$61,727
B	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	199	14.6%	\$43,128
B	First-Line Supervisors of Office & Administrative Support Workers	189	1.7%	\$60,792
B+	Sales Representatives of Services	176	12.7%	\$52,729

**Later** Typically requires a bachelor's degree or higher

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2020-2030 Growth Rate	Average Wages
A+	General & Operations Managers 🔥	504	14.9%	\$83,094
B+	Registered Nurses 🔥	376	7.5%	\$60,159
B+	Accountants & Auditors	222	11.6%	\$55,771
B+	Project Mngmt. Specialists & Business Op. Specialists, All Other	152	9.4%	\$66,575
A	Software Developers & Quality Assurance Analysts & Testers 🔥	140	23.1%	\$69,584
B	Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, & Mental Health Counselors	133	11.9%	\$31,009
B	Human Resources Specialists 🔥	121	13.1%	\$50,111
B+	Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists 🔥	112	27.3%	\$50,091
A	Management Analysts	100	19.2%	\$71,591
B	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	97	8.3%	\$49,702

 Flame icon indicates occupations with high numbers of online job ad postings in 2021.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program. Occupational projections developed by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC). Lightcast™ Job opening and growth rate data is based on sum of published employment.

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